

REMARKS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

An Information Disclosure Statement citing all reference listed in the specification was submitted on September 12, 2001. A copy of the IDS is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's convenience.

DRAWINGS

Applicant has amended the drawings as requested by the Examiner. The amended drawings are enclosed herewith.

SPECIFICATION

Applicant has amended the specification to comply with the Examiner's rejections. Applicant is submitting evidence that "four-way stretchable material" as used in Applicant's specification is a term of art known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Applicant has enclosed various documents from internet web sites using the term "four-way stretchable material."

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Applicant has amended claim 71 through 73 to conform with 37 CFR 1.75(c).

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Applicant has amended the specification to comply with the Examiner's rejections. Applicant is submitting evidence that "four-way stretchable material" as used in Applicant's specification is a term of art known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Applicant has enclosed various documents from internet web sites using the term "four-way stretchable material."

The terms in claims 1 through 70 are now described in the specification in such a manner as to enable one skilled in the art to make or use the invention.

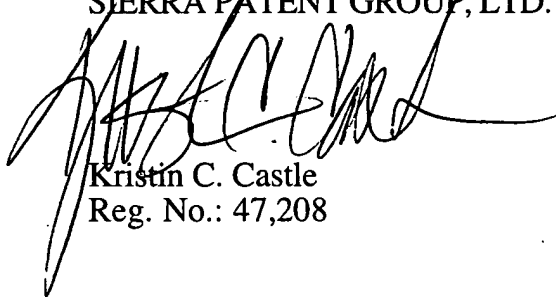
CONCLUSION

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
SIERRA PATENT GROUP, LTD.

Dated: November 20, 2002



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Marked-Up Specification and Claims**In the Specification**

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 8, with the following:

Skin layer **104** has a bottom surface **106** which is affixed to the top surface **110** of 4-way stretchable material layer **112** by a permanent adhesive **108** that completely covers skin layer **104** from edge to edge. The permanent adhesive **108** can be any permanent adhesive known in the art which will permanently bond skin layer **104** to 4-way stretchable material layer **112**. An example of such a permanent adhesive is [Flexicon] FLEXICON® adhesive V-402. However, it will be clear to one skilled in the art that other similar suitable adhesives may be used.

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 8, with the following:

4-way stretchable layer **112** has top surface **110** and a bottom surface **114**, such that top surface **110** of 4-way stretchable layer **112** conforms to and is permanently affixed to bottom surface **106** of skin layer **104**. 4-way stretchable layer **112** may be comprised of any material that can simultaneously stretch in four directions such as [mylar] MYLAR®. Bottom surface **114** of 4-way stretchable layer **112** is releasably attached to the railing or hand support system by a layer of releasable adhesive **116**. Releasable adhesive **116** completely covers from edge to edge and is affixed to 4-way stretchable layer **112** and provides releasable adhesion to the railing or hand support system. Releasable adhesive **116** provides secure adhesion to the railing or hand support system but may be removed with a minimal amount of effort by peeling grip **100**

off the railing or hand support system. An example of a releasable adhesive is [Flexicon] FLEXICON® V-58.

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 9, with the following:

In one embodiment of grip **100** disclosed in FIG. 3, the lengthwise edges of skin layer **104** and 4-way stretchable layer **112** may be tapered in thickness. FIG. 2 discloses a top view of grip **100**. FIG. 3 discloses a cross sectional view of grip **100** taken from cross sectional line A to A 101 of FIG. 2. Tapering the edges of skin layer **104** and 4-way stretchable layer **112** allows for the edges to overlap when wrapping a railing or hand support system and at the same time to maintain a constant thickness of grip **100** despite the overlapping edges. In another embodiment, the edges are tapered but wrapped in such a way that they do not overlap to provide still more friction for the user. In still another embodiment, the lengthwise edges of skin layer **104** and 4-way stretchable layer **112** are not tapered for instances when the edges do not overlap.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 10 with the following:

Skin layer **204** has a bottom surface **206** which is affixed to top surface **210** of backing layer **212** by a permanent adhesive **208** which completely covers bottom surface **214** backing layer **212** from edge to edge. The permanent adhesive **208** can be any permanent adhesive known in the art which will permanently bond skin layer **204** to backing layer **212**. An example of such a permanent adhesive is [Flexicon] FLEXICON® adhesive V-402. However, it will be clear to one skilled in the art that other similar suitable adhesives may be used.

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 10 with the following:

Backing layer **212** has a top surface **210** and a bottom surface **214**, such that top surface **210** of backing layer **212** conforms to and is affixed to bottom surface **206** of skin layer **204**. Backing layer **212** may be comprised of any material suitable for providing support including open cell foam, closed cell foam, felt, paper or rubber. Bottom surface **214** of backing layer **212** is permanently adhered to the top surface **218** of 4-way stretchable material **220**. The permanent adhesive attaching bottom surface **214** of backing layer **212** to top surface **218** of 4-way stretchable material **220** can be any permanent adhesive known in the art which will permanently bond the surfaces an example of which is [Flexicon] FLEXICON® V-402. 4-way stretchable material **220** has the ability to stretch in all directions simultaneously. An example of a 4-way stretchable material is [Mylar] MYLAR®. Bottom surface **222** of 4-way stretchable layer **220** is releasably attached to the railing or hand support system by releasable adhesive **224**. Releasable adhesive **224** is affixed to and completely covers 4-way stretchable material **220** from edge to edge and provides releasable adhesion to the railing or hand support system. Releasable adhesive **224** provides secure adhesion to the railing or hand support system but may be removed with a minimal amount of effort by peeling grip **200** off the railing or hand support system. An example of a releasable adhesive is [Flexicon] FLEXICON ® V-58.

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 11, with the following:

In one embodiment of grip **200** disclosed in FIG. **4**, the lengthwise edges of skin layer **204**, backing layer **212** and 4-way stretchable layer **220** may be tapered in thickness. FIG. **5** discloses a top view of grip **200**. FIG. **6** discloses a cross sectional view of grip **200** taken from cross sectional line A to A 201 of FIG. **5**. Tapering the edges of skin layer **204**, backing layer **212** and 4-way stretchable layer **220** allows for the edges to overlap when wrapping a railing or hand support system and at the same time to maintain a constant thickness of grip **200** despite the overlapping edges. In another embodiment, the edges are tapered but wrapped in such a way that they do not overlap to provide still more friction for the user. In still another embodiment, the lengthwise edges of skin layer **204**, backing layer **212** and 4-way stretchable layer **220** are not tapered for instances when the edges do not overlap but a consistent thickness of grip is desired.

In the Claims

Kindly amend claims 71 through 73 as follows:

71. (Amended) A method of wrapping the grip of claim 5 comprising:
 providing a railing having a lengthwise section and a cross-sectional circumference and having alignment targets along its length;
 wrapping the grip of claim [6]5 such that said lengthwise edge of grip 5 is parallel to said length of said railing;

aligning said alignment targets of said railing up with said alignment targets of said grip; and

folding said grip, said grip having a width substantially similar to the circumference of said railing, such that edges of said grip abut when wrapped around said railing.

72. (Amended) A method of wrapping the grip of claim 14 comprising:
providing a railing having a length; and
wrapping the grip of claim [3] 14 around said railing in a spiral such that said tapered edges of the grip overlap to completely cover the length of said railing and such that said grip has a constant thickness.

73. (Amended) A method of wrapping the grip of claim 16 comprising:
providing a railing having a lengthwise section and a cross-sectional circumference and having alignment targets along its length;
wrapping the grip of claim [6] 16 such that said lengthwise edge of grip [6] 16 is parallel to said length of said railing;
aligning said alignment targets of said railing up with said alignment targets of said grip; and
folding said grip, said grip having a width substantially similar to the circumference of said railing, such that edges of said grip abut when wrapped around said railing.